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NANTWICH RURAL DISTRICT.

A N N U A L R E P O R T

of

the

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

for the Year 1940

by

O.H. BLACKLAY, M.D., F.R.C.S. Edin.

Medical Officer of Health


To Which is Appended the Report of

JOHN S. TOWNLEY

Sanitary Inspector &

Cleansing Superintendent

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# NANTWICH RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL

## Statistics and Social Conditions of the Area

Area (in acres), 100,823.

Registrar General's estimate of resident population (middle of 1940) 26,680.

Number of inhabited houses (end of 1940) according to the rate books, 7,651.

Rateable Value (1st April, 1940) £118,692.

Sum represented by a penny rate, £468.

### Sanitary Staff

Medical Officer of Health (part time) O.H. Blacklay, M.D., F.R.C.S. (Edin.).

Senior Sanitary Inspector (full time) John S. Townley.

Additional Sanitary Inspector (full time) E.A. Bagguley.

Sanitary Engineer and Surveyor (full time) H. Crabtree.

### Social Conditions

The social conditions remain unaltered. The residents of the district surrounding Crewe and Nantwich are employed in these towns, and in the remaining part the population find employment in agriculture, which is the chief industry of the district. Allied industries, in the form of milk factories and a whey products factory, are situated in the area. There is one clothing factory in the district which employs female labour. Unemployment has disappeared.

### Vital Statistics

		Total	Male	Female
Live Births	(Legitimate)	405	223	183
	(Illegitimate)	19	9	10

Birth Rate per 1,000 of the estimated resident population, 15.89.

Still Births	19	14	5
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Rate per 1,000 total (live and still) births, 42.88.

Deaths	328	183	145
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Death Rate per 1,000 of the resident population, 12.29.

Deaths from Puerperal Causes:-

There were no deaths from Puerperal causes.

Death Rate of infants under one year of age.

All infants per 1,000 live births	56.60
Legitimate infants per 1,000 legitimate births	56.79
Illegitimate infants per 1,000 illegitimate live births	53.63
Deaths from Cancer (all ages)	32
Deaths from Measles	nil
Deaths from Whooping Cough (all ages)	1
Deaths from Diarrhoea (under 2 years)	nil

Particulars of any unusual or excessive mortality during the year which has received or requires comment - No comment necessary.

### Deaths

The "standardised" death rate (calculated from the Registrar General's Comparability factor) for comparative purposes is 11.55.



The total number of deaths of infants under one year of age was 24 (16 males and 8 females) one of which was illegitimate.

There have been no causes of sickness or invalidity which have been specially noteworthy in this area during the year. The conditions of occupation and environments of the population are healthy.

#### Immunisation Against Diphtheria

The Scheme of free immunisation of children against Diphtheria is still in operation and applications are dealt with as they arise.

#### Laboratory Facilities

There have been no developments or changes owing to the war and the existing arrangements are set out hereunder:

Bacteriological specimens are examined at the Public Health Laboratory of the University of Manchester and the Evans Biological Institute.

Samples of milk are examined at the Chester Royal Infirmary Laboratory.

Water samples are submitted to Messrs. Melling & Ardern, the County Analysts, Manchester.

#### Ambulance Facilities

There is a motor ambulance at the Isolation Hospital for transport of infectious diseases and another kept at Nantwich for the transport of non-infectious and accident cases.

The above ambulances are maintained by (1) The Nantwich Joint Hospital Board, of which the Rural District is a constituent authority; (2) by the Nantwich Urban and Rural District Councils jointly under agreement.

In addition to the above, six ambulances supplied by the County Council under the Air Raid Precautions Scheme are stationed within the area, and one mobile unit.

In my opinion the service is adequate.

#### Nursing Arrangements

Professional nursing in the homes of the people in the District is by District Nurses, employed by voluntary associations. Nurses are stationed at Acton, Audlem, Bunbury, Doddington, Cholmondeley, Willaston, Worleston, Newhall Stapeley and Shavington. These nurses act as midwives in their respective districts.

There is one registered but untrained midwife who practices in the district.

No special provision is made for the nursing of infectious cases in their own homes.

Nurses are employed by the County Council and are located in the Rural District; they exercise the duties of school nurses and health visitors to cases of tuberculosis.

#### Clinics and Treatment Centres

The only existing centre of this type in the district is the Child Welfare Centre at Haslington. The Child Welfare Centres of Nantwich and Alsager are used by the residents in the vicinity of these places.

## Hospitals

There is a large Poor Law Hospital at Nantwich, which serves the Rural and Urban Districts of Nantwich and the Borough of Crewe, to which a temporary extension has been made providing accommodation for 210 beds, for use in the event of an emergency.

There is the Isolation Hospital at Worleston. This Hospital is capable of accommodating twenty adults and thirty children, and of treating three diseases at the same time.

There is a Cottage Hospital at Nantwich with accommodation for eighteen patients.

There is a Small-pox Hospital at Ravensmoor with room for six or at most eighteen patients.

In addition to these institutions there exists at Wrenbury Hall, Near Nantwich, an agricultural and Industrial Colony for residential treatment of Tuberculosis cases capable of some work. This institution was presented to the County Council shortly after the last war by the British Red Cross Society and St. John Ambulance Association.

## Water Extensions carried out during 1940

The mains of the Oakhanger district of the Haslington Parish have been extended to give a supply of water for industrial purposes.

## Sewerage and Drainage

Only short extensions of sewers to meet local housing development at Alpraham, Haslington and Wistaston have been made.

## Housing

During the twelve months under review no extensive repairs have been carried out at houses in the Rural District, the Council having only taken action in cases where urgent repair was necessary to abate nuisances.

The curtailed scheme of housing agricultural workers has been completed, 32 houses having been erected.

## Rivers and Streams Pollution

No action in this connection has been necessary during the year.

## Closet Accommodation

There have been no voluntary conversions from conservancy system to water carriage which leaves approximately 1,194 pails in the populous and closely built areas.

## Public Cleansing

On the 31st December, 1940, scavenging was carried out by direct labour in the following parishes, viz:- Willaston, Wistaston, Wybunbury, Rope, Shavington, Stapeley, Hough, Weston, Haslington, Basford and Chorlton.

The parishes of Audlem, Crewe Green, Stoke, Wardle and Worleston were scavenged by contract.

## Sanitary Inspection of the Area

The report of the Sanitary Inspector, which deals fully with this matter, is attached hereto.



### Shops and Offices

Periodical inspections have been made and no infringements found.

### Camping Sites

No action taken.

### Swimming Baths

There are no public or private swimming baths or pools in this area.

### Eradication of Bed Bugs

(1) Number of houses found to be infested:-

(a) Council Houses:	Nil
(b) Other Houses:	Nil
Number of houses disinfested:	Nil

(2) Method employed when cases do arise is the use of an insectide known as "Zaldecide".

(3) Methods employed to ensure belongings of tenants free from vermin before removal to Council houses: Nil.

(4) Disinfestation is carried out by Local Authority as required.

(5) No measures were taken to educate tenants to prevent infestation or re-infestation after cleaning.

### Schools

All schools in the area have a wholesome and adequate supply of water, and the general sanitary conditions are good.

There were no schools closed on account of any epidemic during the year.

### Inspection and Supervision of Food

There are 697 farms licensed under the Accredited Milk Scheme, one attested herd, and 17 producers of Tuberculin Tested Milk.

Samples of milk are taken from retailers in the Rural District and these are tested for the presence of dirt and other extraneous matter.

Frequent inspections are made of three Pasteurisation plants in the district and samples are taken regularly and submitted for examination.

In January the Ministry of Food took over the slaughter and distribution of meat for human consumption. One slaughter-house in this Rural District is used for the meat supply of the Nantwich Rural and Urban Districts and is situated at Woolstanwood.

Particulars of meat inspected will be found in the report of the Sanitary Inspector attached hereto.

### Nutrition

No steps have been taken to increase knowledge on the above subject by this Authority.

### Shell-fish

There are no shell-fish beds or layings in the district.

### Infectious Disease

There were 10 cases of Scarlet Fever, against 17 last year. Diphtheria cases numbered 11, showing a decrease of 8 on last year.

26 sputum specimens were examined for the presence of Tubercle Baccilli and reported as negative.

12 specimens were examined for the presence of Diphtheria Baccilli and one was reported as positive.

7 faeces, 10 urine, 1 milk and 2 water specimens were examined for B. Typhosis, but were found to be negative.

12 cases of Tuberculosis were notified: 7 were "pulmonary" cases, and 5 "non-pulmonary" cases.

The efficiency of notification of Tuberculosis in the area is satisfactory and no proceedings have been necessary for neglect to notify this disease.

### Tuberculosis

#### New Cases and Mortality During 1940

Age Periods	New Cases				Deaths			
	Respiratory		Non-Respiratory		Respiratory		Non-Respiratory	
	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
0								
1			1	1				
5								
15	2	1				1		
25		3		2	1	2		
35		1						
45		1						
55					3			
65 & Upwards	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
	<u>2</u>	<u>6</u>	<u>1</u>	<u>3</u>	<u>4</u>	<u>3</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>

Total Cases 12.

Total Deaths 7.

### Prevention of Blindness

No action has been taken by this authority.

### Notifiable Diseases

The following is a tabular statement of the cases of notifiable diseases which were reported during the year:-

Disease	Cases Notified	Removed to Hospital	Deaths
Scarlet Fever	10	8	-
Diphtheria	11	10	1
Pneumonia	28	-	19
Puerperal Pyrexia	4	-	-
Erysipelas	3	-	-
Whooping Cough	64	-	1
Measles	126	-	-
Cerebro Spinal Fever	1	-	-



Cases of Infectious Disease Showing the  
Incidence of Cases in Various Age Periods

	Under 1 year	1 to 2 yrs.	2 to 3 yrs.	3 to 4 yrs.	4 to 5 yrs.	5 to 10 yrs.	10 to 15 yrs.	15 to 20 yrs.	20 to 35 yrs.	35 to 45 yrs.	45 to 65 yrs.	65 & over	All Ages
Scarlet Fever	-	-	-	1	1	-	4	4	-	-	-	-	10
Diphtheria	-	-	1	1	-	1	2	3	3	-	-	-	11
Pneumonia	-	-	-	-	-	4	2	-	5	6	7	4	28
Puerperal Pyrexia	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	4	-	-	-	4
Measles	1	4	2	13	4	52	28	8	11	-	-	1	124
Erysipelas	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	1	1	-	3
Whooping Cough	2	4	7	8	7	46	1	-	-	-	-	-	75
C.S. Meningitis	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	1
Totals	3	8	10	23	12	103	37	15	25	7	8	5	

Remarks

Many improvements and extensions to the Council's Services which were under consideration at the outbreak of hostilities have naturally been held up, and I record the following as matters which must receive the Council's attention as soon as circumstances permit.

Sewerage and sewage disposal in the parishes of Audlem, Stapeley, Hough, Wybunbury, Weston and parts of Haslington.

The erection of houses for the working classes.

Conversion of pail closets in the populous areas.

The introduction of more hygienic methods of refuse collection and disposal.

OLIVER H. BLACKLAY, M.D., F.R.C.S. (Edin.).

Medical Officer of Health.

Nantwich,

July, 1941.



SANITARY INSPECTOR'S REPORT

To the Chairman and Members of the Nantwich Rural District Council.  
Gentlemen,

I have the honour to submit my sixth Annual Report for the year ending December 31st, 1940.

Inspections

Housing Acts	36
Public Health Acts	319
Milk & Dairies Order, 1926.	85
Food & Drugs Act, 1938.	497

Infectious Diseases

The following cases of infectious disease have been investigated:-

Scarlet Fever	10
Diphtheria	11
Erysipelas	1

Disinfection was carried out in each case and investigation entailed 43 visits.

Refuse Accommodation

In parishes where scavenging is in operation ashbins are provided at all premises.

Scavenging

Eleven parishes are scavenged by direct labour with horse-drawn vehicles and five by contract.

The approximate number of ashbins and closet pails emptied are as follows:-

Ashbins (fortnightly)	3,679
Closet Pails (weekly)	1,600

Offensive Trades

Only one offensive trade exists in this area - a tripe boiling establishment. Frequent visits are paid and the place is kept in a satisfactory condition.

Shops Act

The shops in the area were frequently inspected and no infringements of the Act were found.

Canal Boats

No applications were received for registration of any canal boats. 15 visits have been made to the canal, and 7 boats were inspected. All were found to be free from infectious disease. The occupants were as follows:-

Men	7
Women	7
Children	15

## Housing

Owing to war conditions and the consequent shortage of labour and materials, reconstruction, improvement of houses and extensive repair has been brought to a standstill.

In the event of cases arising, action has been taken under the Public Health Act, 1936, and has been limited to works necessary to obviate nuisances.

## Inspection and Supervision of Food

### Milk Supply

The administration of the Food & Drugs Act, 1938, the Milk & Dairies Order, 1926.

The following samples were taken from retailers in the district and submitted to the "Minit Sediment" test, with the following results:-

Number of samples taken	33
" " " found to be clean	22
" " " found to be slightly contaminated	11

Activities with respect to reconstruction of cowsheds and dairies have been brought to a standstill by wartime conditions.

Twenty samples of pasteurised milk produced in the area were taken, 15 of which complied with the standard.

### Milk (Special Designations) Order, 1936-38

The number of licences granted or renewed under the above Order are as follows:-

"Pasteurised"	3
"Tuberculin Tested" (Bottler's Licence)	2
"Tuberculin Tested" (Supplementary)	1
"Accredited" (Bottler's Licence)	1

Premises licenced were regularly inspected and found to comply in all respects with the requirements of the Order.

### Slaughterhouses

In January, 1940, all private slaughterhouses were closed and since then all meat for human consumption in the Nantwich Rural and Urban Districts has been slaughtered at premises taken over by the Ministry of Food.

Inspection of meat at these premises has resulted in the following animals being examined:

Cattle	1,730
Calves	705
Sheep and Lambs	7,922
Pigs	2,679

The total weight of meat condemned was 73 tons.

The present method of slaughter makes it possible for the first time, for all meat slaughtered in this Rural District to be examined, whereas it was utterly impossible to control and regulate the slaughter at 33 private slaughterhouses which exist in this scattered Rural District, and the scheme with its many advantages is certainly most satisfactory from the point of view of meat inspection.



Water Analysis

No samples from private supplies have been taken for submission to the County Analysts.

Remarks

In order to obviate delay in delivery of meat slaughtered at the authorised slaughterhouse of the Ministry of Food at Woolstanwood, regular daily attendance is necessary, and your Additional Sanitary Inspector, Mr. Bagguley, and myself, inspect meat there first thing each morning. Additional visits are made daily as required. Responsibility for the meat inspection at these premises demands much time, with the result that together with normal routine duties, office work and the administration of the Council's Cleansing and Salvage Schemes by my Department, little time is left for systematic inspection of the district.

I remain, Gentlemen,

Your obedient servant,

JOHN S. TOWNLEY

Sanitary Inspector.

Nantwich,

July, 1941.

